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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

USSR CELEBRATES ARTILLERY DAY 1950

A total of 146 newspapers from 15 union republics, published 14 - 21 November 1950, were covered for this report. Information of positive intelligence was almost completely lacking in the press coverage.

The USSR marked its sixth annual Artillery Day on 19 November 1950. Joint meetings of government, party, community, and military leaders in cities, and smaller celebrations at military posts and aboard naval vessels were held the preceding day.

The main festivities as described in Trud, 19 November, were held on 18 November in the Central Theater of the Red Army and were attended by Marshal of the Soviet Union V. D. Sokolovskiy; General of the Army S. M. Shtemenko; Marshals of the Soviet Union L. A. Govorov and S. M. Budenny; I. I. Rumyantsev and Ye. A. Furtseva, secretaries of the Moscow City Party Committee; D. F. Ustinov, Minister of Armaments; Chief Marshal of Artillery N. N. Voronov; Colonel General of Aviation P. F. Zhigarev; Lieutenant General of Artillery A. A. Blagovravov, president of the Academy of Artillery Sciences; and others. The formal meeting was opened by Marshal Sokolovskiy, with Colonel General M. I. Nedelin delivering the main address on Artillery Day.

In Leningrad, according to Leningradskaya Pravda, 19 November, a formal Artillery Day meeting of the command units of the Leningrad Military District and the Navy, together with representatives of party and soviet organizations, was held on 18 November in the Officers' Club imeni S. M. Kirov. The meeting was opened by Colonel General A. Luchinskiy, Commander of the Leningrad Military District. A speech on Artillery Day was made by Major General of Artillery Shvetsov.

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Zarya Vostoka, 19 November, described the formal meeting held in Tbilisi on 18 November at which the following were identified as being present, with no rank or title given: A. Antonov [identified as General of the Army and Commander of the Transcaucasus Military District in Zarya Vostoka, 10 November], M. Lelashvili, Ye. Cherkiziya, N. Romanov, [according to Zarya Vostoka, 10 November, Lieutenant General] A. Tarasov, and others. The name of the principal speaker was not given.

Except for newspaper accounts of the three formal meetings mentioned above, participants and speakers were either not identified or their ranks not given, as in Kishinev, where the speaker was identified only as I. N. Zykov in Sovetskaya Moldaviya, 19 November; or in Minsk, where Comrade Dmitriyev made the address on Artillery Day, according to Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 19 November; or in Tashkent, where Pravda Vostoka, 19 November, identified the speaker only as Comrade Degtyarev [probably Lieutenant General of Artillery P. Degtyarev].

For days prior to Artillery Day, representatives of DOSARM organizations, party agitators, and lecturers from republic Societies for the Dissemination of Scientific and Political Knowledge gave lectures and talks on the history of Russian and Soviet artillery, the roles of Lenin and Stalin in the creation of the artillery industry, Soviet priority in artillery technology, the role played by the artillery in the war, etc.

Meetings of workers with Soviet artillerymen, excursions to museums to view captured enemy equipment, artillery salutes, literary and photographic displays in officers' clubs, city libraries, and clubs on the history of Russian and Soviet artillery and the role of artillery in the war, DOSARM-sponsored marksmanship meets, soccer games between service and civilian teams, film festivals, and concerts to celebrate Artillery Day were described in the newspapers.

A feature of this year's Artillery Day celebrations, according to Vechernyaya Moskva, 20 November, was the DOSARM-sponsored small-arms marksmanship meet held at Tushino on 19 November. Participating were members of primary DOSARM organizations of Moscow and Moscow Oblast. Winners received nickel-plated shells as prizes, donated, according to Moskovskaya Pravda, 19 November, by the Main Artillery Administration of the Soviet Army.

Lead editorials in all newspapers on 19 November glorified the development of the artillery under the Soviet regime, with particular emphasis on achievements in World War II. In addition, editorials contrasted the peace policy of the Soviet Union with the war policy of the Anglo-American imperialists.

At least half the lead editorials and many of the special articles printed on 19 November either directly quoted, or rephrased, the following paragraph from the speech of Marshal N. A. Bulganin, made at the formal meeting of the Moscow Soviet on 6 November in honor of the 33d anniversary of the October Revolution:

"It is already about time for these gentlemen [warmongers making threats against the Soviet Union] to realize that the Soviet people are not of the weak-nerved type. The experience of history shows that our peace-loving policy is not a sign of weakness. It is about time for these gentlemen to realize that our people are capable of standing up for themselves, of standing up for the interests of their motherland, if need be with arms in hand."

In addition to lead editorials, all papers on 19 November carried special articles on the second page by high-ranking artillery officers. These were devoted chiefly to Russian and Soviet priority in artillery technology and contained the vague, general statements usually found in this type of article.

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The development of Soviet artillery between 1917 and the present, with praise of Stalin's and the party's role in this development, also received much attention.

Soviet antiaircraft artillery received little notice in these special articles, being mentioned only in connection with the defense of Leningrad and Moscow during the war.

The tone for Artillery Day 1950 publicity was set by Krasnaya Zvezda, 14 November, in the article, "The Mighty Soviet Artillery," written by Colonel S. Grigor'yev for the guidance of speakers. Beginning with the statement that Russian artillery-technological thought has always outstripped that of the West, even in its early stages in the 14th century, the article goes on to claim that Russian cannon makers were casting cannon of copper and bronze as early as the last half of the 15th century, and were the first to make rifled cannon and to use the breechblock, Russia is claimed to have been the birthplace of the rapid-fire cannon, the mortar, and the antiaircraft gun.

The article continues with a review of the growth of Soviet artillery and credits Stalin with both the creation of the Soviet artillery industry and the theory of massed artillery cooperating closely with infantry and cavalry. Stalin is also said to have been personally responsible for the working out of "all the principal problems touching on the development and application of new forms of weapons." The article concludes with a history of Soviet artillery in the war. Marshal of Artillery M. Chistyakov, in an article entitled "Soviet Artillery," which appeared in Izvestiya, 19 November, stresses Stalin's role in the development of artillery from Tsaritsyn down through the Great Patriotic War.

Colonel General of Artillery N. Khlebnikov's article in the 19 November issue of Krasnaya Zvezda, "The Artillery of the Soviet Army," traces the development of artillery under the Soviets and names the well-known artillery designers of the period: V. G. Grabin, F. F. Petrov, I. I. Ivanov, and B. Shavyrin.

Colonel General of Artillery M. Nedelin's article, "Soviet Artillery Day," in the 19 November issue of Pravda, credits Stalin and the party for the Soviet Army's having the most powerful and up-to-date artillery at the beginning of the Great Patriotic War.

In Komsomol'skaya Pravda, 19 November, Colonel General of Artillery I. Volkotrubenko tells how, in the period between the two world wars, foreign military specialists minimized the significance of artillery and were confident that any future war would be decided by tanks and aircraft. He states that Stalin foresaw the decisive role and growing significance of artillery, and describes how his ideas were confirmed in the early part of the Patriotic War, when thousands of Nazi tanks were smashed by Soviet artillery.

Lieutenant General of Artillery Academician A. Blagonravov's article, "Stalin Artillery," in Trud, 19 November, recounts that while the Red Army had only 1,700 artillery pieces on all fronts in spring 1919, Soviet artillery grew to the extent that 41,000 artillery pieces, and mortars alone were used in the Berlin operation in 1945.

Lieutenant General of Artillery P. Degtyarev was the author of an article, "The Mighty Stalin Artillery," which appeared in Moskovskaya Pravda on 19 November. Russian artillery is claimed to have developed independently of that of the West, and to have gotten its start during the reign of Dmitriy Donskoy (1359 - 1389), when it was first used against the Tatar invaders.

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Lieutenant General of Artillery I. Prochko's article, "The Mighty Artillery of the Soviet Army," received the widest dissemination of all the special articles, just as it did last year. Prochko also traces the history of Russian artillery and the development of Soviet artillery during World War II, stressing Stalin's role. The article appeared on 18 November in Vechernyaya Moskva, and on 19 November in Sovetskaya Moldaviya, Sovetskaya Latvya, Sovetskaya Litva, Sovetskaya Estoniya, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, Pravda Vostoka, Leninskoye Znamya, Leningradskaya Pravda, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, Kommunist, and Bakinskiy Rabochiy.

Sovetskaya Belorussiya's special article on 19 November was written by V. Rusanov, whose rank or title was not given. Rusanov speaks of the industrialization of the Soviet Union, which laid the foundation for the design and construction of artillery armaments of all types and caliber.

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